



Sailors and family members show their support during the Pro Bowl at Aloha Stadium with a U.S. Navy display.

Pro bowlers visit Pearl Harbor while in Hawaii

Story and Photos by
Navy Region Public Affairs

Although millions watched this year's Pro Bowl on Saturday afternoon, only a handful had an opportunity to participate in the festivities.

Of those select few, Airman Melinda D. Lloyd had the distinct privilege of representing the Navy and her command, Patrol Squadron Nine (VP 9), in the pre-game show. Lloyd presented this year's Hall-of-Fame inductees with the traditional flower lei.

Lloyd was chosen to represent the Navy out of a deserving pool of candidates. Before meeting the Hall-of-Fame selectees at midfield, Lloyd reflected on how she was selected.

"Hard work and dedication," she explained. "My mother told me that if you put enough effort into something, you will be rewarded."

Adm. Dennis Blair, Commander-in-Chief U.S. Pacific Command, tossed the coin to determine which team would be the receiving team at kickoff.

In addition to the NFL and the Navy working together on the pre-

game activities, more than 100 Sailors assisted with security, parking and in other supporting positions.

Although the game was held Feb. 9, some National Football League (NFL) officials and players were on Oahu for more than a week before the game.

While in Hawaii, NFL officials and players had numerous opportunities to interact with Sailors. Several Pro Bowl players watched the Super Bowl aboard USS O'Kane on Feb. 3.

Players and NFL officials also toured various Pearl Harbor ships, signed autographs at the Navy Exchange, visited the Arizona Memorial and participated in a prayer breakfast held at Richardson Field.

Tim Brown of the Oakland Raiders was moved by the experience. "I find Pearl Harbor very inspirational," said Brown of the visit. Brown also had praise for the Sailors he met.

"As football players, people often look at us as being warriors, but we fail in comparison when we see what the military is doing everyday - because what they do is truly life and death. So God bless you all and keep up the good work," he said.



An Airman presents a lei to Hall-of-Fame inductee John Stallworth of the Pittsburgh Steelers during the Pro Bowl's pre-game festivities.



Adm. Dennis Blair, Commander-in-Chief U.S. Pacific Command, tosses the game opening coin.



Rich Gannon, quarterback for the Oakland Raiders, learns about the operations of USS O'Kane (DDG 77) during his visit aboard the guided missile destroyer.



Above: Tim Brown from the Oakland Raiders signs autographs after speaking to players, service members and other guests at a morning prayer breakfast.

Left: John Abrahm from the New York Jets talked with a young fan during an autograph signing session at the Pearl Harbor Exchange.